

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 27, 2002 LB 600

in the livestock industry. People raising hogs or cattle don't get those kind of payments. Fact is the only payments I know that are available out there are some that deal with what they call EQIP funds, and those are payments, not in the form of cash, but in the form of matching funds to do conservation work on your farms and ranches: put in new wells, cross-fence, and do some...do some conservation work. So there just isn't much out there for those people in the cattle industry. We have, I think I've told you this before, the four...four of the ten most poverty stricken counties in the nation in Nebraska. And the single most poverty stricken county in Nebraska is Loup County. Average per capita income in Loup County last year was \$4,800. That is a cow/calf county. That's a county that its whole livelihood depends on the production of...of cattle. Those are ranchers, and they are going broke. And those other four counties...those other three counties in Nebraska, they're in the most poverty stricken...ten most poverty stricken are also cattle counties. All of those top ten, four are from Texas, three are fr...two are from South Dakota, and four are from Nebraska, all of them are cow/calf producing counties. Those are the most poverty stricken counties in the nation. They take over Appalachia or Appalachia, whatever you want to call it. It's a sorry state of affairs, ladies and gentlemen, and those people are crying for help and this is what I'm hearing all the time about the...about...whenever I talk to them, whatever you do get our property taxes based on what it will produce and not what it sells for. With that, I'd like to ask Senator Coordsen a question, and then give him the rest of my time to...to talk about it. There's...the model that was put out last summer by the staff of the Revenue Committee showed, when it was plugged into actual land values, that most places, irrigated farm ground, the valuation went up. Most places the ranch land and grassland went down, and I think in most cases the nonirrigated farmland either stayed the same or went down, although maybe some places it went up a little. How does that reflect in your current amendment, Senator Coordsen, and is there some way to adjust what was in that model to make it reflect a more true picture of the valuation of that land? You can have the rest of my time, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Bear in...bear in mind, Senator,...